Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, OECD, UNCTAD, JA SUBJECT: COPPER CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 219328

1. ON SEPTEMBER 7 EMBOFF CONVEYED US VIEWS AS DESCRIBED REFTEL TO FONOFF (YAMADA, RESOURCES DIV.) AND MITI (YOKOTA, INTL. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIV.). BOTH AGENCIES EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR HOLDING CONSUMER CONSULTATIONS ON COPPER AS A CONTINUATION OF SEPTEMBER HLGC MEETING IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE STIMULATION TO LDC SENSITIVITIES ABOUT BY-PASSING UNCTAD. FONOFF WILL BE REPRESENTED AT BOTH HLGC AND UNCTAD MEETINGS BY COUNCILLOR MIZOGUCHI, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, AND MITI ALSO BELIEVES IT WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN SENDING REPS TO PARIS HLGC MEETING WHO HAVE THE REQUIRED EXPERTISE ON COPPER. (ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPT. CHIEF SUZUKI WILL REPRESENT MITI AT HLGC, BUT MITI DELEGATE FOR COPPER MEETING HAS NOT YET BEEN SELECTED.) BOTH OFFICIALS SAID THAT IF IT WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD SEPTEMBER 23 MEETING UNDER HLGC AUSPICES, GOJ WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NONETHELESS PROBABLY AGREE TO AD HOC CONSULTATIONS

AMONG MAJOR COPPER CONSUMERS.

2. GOJ OFFICIALS WERE AGREEABLE TO U.S.-PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS AND INDICATED THAT JAPAN WOULD FAVOR ESTABLISH-MENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PRODUCER/CONSUMER FORUM FOR COPPER AND OPPOSE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A STABILIZATION AGREE-MENT. YAMADA REPORTED THAT SOME JAPANESE INDUSTRY EX-ECUTIVES HAD RECENTLY HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH CIPEC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS WHO APPEARED UNHAPPY ABOUT UNCTAD'S ENCROACHMENT UPON THEIR BUREAUCRATIC TURF AND SYMPATHETIC TO THE IDEA OF AN INDEPENDENT COPPER FORUM, YAMADA SUGGESTED THAT A SKILLFUL APPROACH MIGHT ALSO INDUCE SOME LDC COPPER PRODUCERS TO LOOK WITH FAVOR UPON AN INDE-PENDENT COPPER GROUP. YOKOTA ADDED THAT IT MIGHT HELP IN THIS CONNECTION TO POINT OUT THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF PAST UNCTAD COMMODITY GROUPS SUCH AS THE TUNGSTEN COM-MITTEE. YAMADA REPORTED THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT CIPEC MEMBERS PLAN TO MEET IN PARIS FROM SEPTEMBER 16. SHOESMITH

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